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RUEHGV/USMISSION GENEVA 0667
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SUBJECT: EU ENVOY MOREL PASSES MESSAGE TO KYRGYZ FM ON IRAN

Classified By: CDA Lee Litzenberger, Reasons 1.4 (b) and (d).

¶1. (C) On July 19, EU Special Envoy for Central Asia Pierre Morel provided Charge a readout of his meeting that day with Kyrgyz FM Karabayev. With Karabayev, Morel said his main message was about Iran. Morel told Karabayev he understood that Kyrgyzstan and the other Central Asian countries wanted to maintain good relations with Iran, and thus urge continued dialogue with Tehran on the nuclear issue. Morel added that the EU had pursued dialogue with Iran, but had concluded that Iran was simply using the dialogue to buy time to pursue enrichment. Morel told Karabayev that Iran was also hiding behind the silence of the Central Asians, who have been reluctant to criticize Iran's intransigence toward the UN. Morel urged Karabayev to use the opportunity of the August 16 SCO summit to tell the Iranians that their behavior is of concern to Central Asia, too.

Karabayev: Kyrgyzstan supports Manas Air Base

¶2. (C) Morel said he also told Karabayev that the EU supports Manas Air Base and its continued contribution to regional security. Morel said Karabayev interrupted him, saying they did not need to discuss the base at length, and reassured Morel that "the Base is safe."

EU Engagement with Kyrgyzstan

¶3. (C) Morel said he invited Karabayev to join other Central Asian FMs in New York on the margins of UNGA in the last week in September, as the next step in the EU's plans for more regular engagement under the EU's new Central Asia strategy. Morel also discussed with Karabayev plans for President Bakiyev to visit Brussels at the end of November. Morel indicated he would approach EC President Barroso to lock in a meeting, which he indicated was key to getting meetings with other EU principals.

¶4. (C) Comment. Since his appointment earlier this year, FM Karabayev has been one of the leading proponents within the GOKG for the continued presence of Manas Air Base. He is

not, however, directly involved in GOKG preparations for this September's parliamentary hearings, where deputies are expected to voice harsh criticism of the base.

LITZENBERGER